Polluting Units

3027. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "500 polluting units may receive closure notices by January 30" appearing in the 'Economic Times' New Delhi dated the 3rd January, 1992; and

(b) if so, what are the details of units which have decided to set up treatment plants and have been given time till 31st December, 1992 and which were asked to furnish bank guarantee for 50 per cent of the amount needed to set up a pollution control unit; the Units which have been given time till 31st December, 1993, the Units which have been given closure notice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details in this regard are:

(i) An industry, operation or process which has commenced production on or before 16th May, 1981, and has shown adequate proof of at least commencement of physical work for establishment of facilities to meet the specified standards within a time-bound programme, to the satisfaction of the concerned State Pollution Control Board, shall comply with such standards latest by December 31st, 1993.

(ii) An industry, operation or process which has commenced production after the 16th day of May, 1981 but before the 31st day of December, 1991, and has shown adequate proof of at least commencement of physical work for establishment of facilities to meet the specified standards within a time-bound programme, to the satisfaction of the concerned State Pollution Control Board, shall comply with such standards latest by the 31st day of December, 1992.

(iii) According to the information provided by the States, there are 3094 large and medium scale polluting units in the 17 major sectors out of which 150 units have not initiated action for complying with the prescribed standards. The State Pollution Control Boards have been advised to issue notices to the recalcitrant units.

Joint Programme Pioneered by South-South Solidarity

3028. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the joint programme pioneered by South-South Solidarity with two Nepal NGOs, Gonosasthya Kendra and Voluntary Health Service Society, for a flood and health programme and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government are fully supporting and financing such NGO activities in India and in the Sub-Continent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Ecological Public Cell

3029. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Ecological Public cell has been set up; if so, the details thereof indicating the number of grievances received and disposed of respectively;

(b) the expenditure incurred in this exercise including the man-hours of all staff and its cost;

(c) whether similar experiments are proposed to be tried out in other branches of the Ministry; and

(d) whether any guidelines for receiving complaints have been prepared for public use and whether these have been sent to all the environment-related NGOs in the country and if so, the details of each NGOs to whom these were sent and the response on each indicating the action taken thereon by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have set up a Public Grievances Redressal Cell. The cell deals with grievances relating to the areas of environmental degradation, pollution, cruelty to animals and release of grants to various organisations. 103 grievances were received till 31st January, 1992, of which 56 have been disposed of.

(b) Separate expenditure is not involved as the cell is being looked after by the existing staff. It is not possible to separately work out the man hours spent by these staff exclusively for the cell.

(c) There is no such proposal for the present.

(d) The order setting up the Public Grievances Redressal Cell, including the procedure to be followed for registering grievances, has been given wide publicity through the Press. This order has not been addressed to any individual organisations including Non-Government Organisations and hence the question of response from Non-Government Organisations does not arise. However, Non-Government Organisations are also free to register grievances with the Grievances Cell and some of them have availed of this facility.

Pollutiin of Alenga Well

3030. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the effluents of the Jagiroad Paper Mill contains live mercury and has polluted the Alenga Well which is connected with the River Kalanga and through Kalanga with the Brahmaputra; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to prevent the diseases like MINA MOTA of Japan which occured in Minamota in 1972 due to live Mercury?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Mercury bearing effluent of the Jagiroad Paper Mill is treated for mecury removal and the treated effluent is discharged into Alenga Well.

Rhinos and Deer in Kaziranga Sanctuary

3031. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the 'Hindu' of December, 11, 1991 to the effect that at least 17 full-grown rhinos and a large number of deer have been killed during the year in Kaziranga Sanctuary;

(b) if so, the population of rhinos and deer in Kaziranga in the beginning of 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992 also indicating the number of new-born and otherwise added animals during each year; and

(c) the steps taken to preserve and protect the animals in this Sanctuary in particular and the country in general?